

that every murder of a teenager, according to estimates, costs the city in which it is committed roughly one million dollars. I mention this statistic only to highlight the economic benefit of working to prevent youth violence, on top of the obvious social and humanitarian motivations. Analysis has shown that for every dollar spent on youth violence prevention, \$14 is saved that would be spent in the justice system. If prevention is made a priority, studies show, preemptive programs will reap dividends in the future.

The rising rate of incarceration is of great concern to me, particularly as it harshly affects communities of color. According to the Justice Department, if the 2001 rates of incarceration were to continue indefinitely, a white male born in the U.S. would have a 1 in 17 chance of going to state or federal prison during his lifetime, a Latino male would have a 1 in 6 chance, and a Black male would have a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison. These disturbing statistics speak to the ongoing racial divides in our society, as well as to the lack of opportunities for young men in many of these communities. I believe that, in this Congress, we have made some progress toward creating and proliferating opportunities for all the young people of our nation to improve their potential; I also believe we have a great deal of work left to do in this regard.

Madam Speaker, despite a spate of recent shootings that have demonstrated the prevalence of school violence, the news is not all bad. Studies have shown that school-associated violent deaths account for less than 1 percent of homicides among school-aged children and youth.

However, even if schools are the safest place for our children, it remains indisputable that young people are increasingly the victims of violent crime, and that crime and violence in schools remains far too prevalent. In 2004, over 750,000 young people, ages 10–24, were treated in emergency departments for injuries sustained due to violence, according to the Centers for Disease Control. In a CDC survey conducted in 2004 of high school students across the nation, 33 percent reported being in a physical fight at least once in the year preceding the survey. Seventeen percent reported carrying a weapon on one or more of the 30 days preceding questioning. Another survey estimated that 30 percent of 6th to 10th graders were involved in bullying, either as a bully, a target, or both.

Madam Speaker, Americans pay \$90 billion in taxes every year for the criminal justice system. They pay an additional \$65 billion annually in total private security costs. This works out to approximately \$535 a year for every man, woman, and child in America. I would suggest that addressing the causes of youth violence in our country, and working to prevent it in the future, would be a much better direction to concentrate our efforts. Doing so will save American taxpayer dollars, but, far more importantly, it will save the lives of our sons and daughters.

Madam Speaker, youth violence has a profound affect on communities across our nation. In addition to tragic injury and death, youth violence escalates the cost of health care, reduces productivity, decreases property values, and disrupts social services.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to make a reduction in youth violence a reality. According to 71 percent of police chiefs, sher-

iffs, and prosecutors nationwide, providing more pre-kindergarten programs for pre-school age children, as well as after-school programs for school-age children, would be the most effective strategy for reducing youth violence. I believe we, as a Congress and as representatives of the American people, must ensure that the protection of our children is at the forefront of our legislative agenda.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McDERMOTT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McCOTTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFazio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KING of Iowa addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CLARKE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### YOUTH VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to speak to this important issue that we have been talking about that has been brought to the floor by Congressman LARSON.

As we all know, the pendulum seems to be swinging in an opposite direction as relates to our young people. According to the Center for Disease Control, homicide is the second leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year-olds in this country. More closely, homicide is a leading cause of death for African Americans the ages of 10 to 24, the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages in the same category, and the third leading cause of death for Native Americans, Alaskans, and Asian Pacific Islanders.

The recent shootings in Omaha, Nebraska; Cleveland, Ohio; Blacksburg, Virginia; and actually my own hometown of Newark, New Jersey, have shone a harsh light on the rising crime epidemic plaguing our country. Our country has a proliferation of weapons. It is estimated that there are 300 million weapons in this country, one for every man, woman, and child. There seems to be a romance in some areas with guns, the fact that they can be purchased so easily in many parts of our country. Our State of New Jersey has one of the strongest antigun laws in the country; however, people can come in from other States and bring them in. We had four children, four young people, college students executed, four at one time, in a playground, almost gangster type.

And so we have to do something to stop this epidemic which is plaguing